

WASHINGTON.

The President Concerned About the Mexican Claims Commission.

Poland's Committee on Colfax. Carpenter's Bill for Another Election in Louisiana.

PERSONALITIES IN THE HOUSE.

Secretary Boutwell in Explanation of the Shipping Act.

A RAILROAD IN THE TREASURY STOPPED.

Appropriations for the Deficiencies in the Department—A Lecture by Mr. Stenhouse on Polygamy in Utah.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1873.

A Confidential Message from the President to the Senate on Our Treaty Stipulations With Mexico.

The President has sent a confidential document to the Senate, showing the necessity for ratifying the treaty now before that body, extending the stipulations of the treaty with Mexico under which the United States and Mexico Joint Claims Commission was organized. When the labors of the Commission terminated by limitation on the 31st of January, 1873, the awards in favor of Mexico and against the United States amounted in currency, principal and interest, to \$86,721.78. The amount of awards in favor of the United States and against Mexico was principal and interest, \$906,706.76, of which \$154,097.09 was in gold. The Mexican debt is virtually exhausted, there being but 235 claims pending, the large majority of which are practically disposed of by the decisions in similar cases. With the American docket the case is decidedly different, there being 307 cases yet pending. The President called the attention of Congress to this important subject in his last message; but these official notifications of his are unheeded, as is exemplified by the indifference manifested by Congress to enact the legislation concerning the fisheries rendered necessary by the Treaty of Washington.

Opinion of Poland's Committee on Colfax's Last Statement.

The members of the Poland committee are unanimously of opinion that Colfax's statement of yesterday was of unparalleled impudence and absurdity. A member of the committee says there is sufficient ground for his impeachment. When Mr. Poland was asked, "Will the committee recommend such action?" he replied:—

"The committee will merely report the evidence."

"What is the opinion of the committee regarding Colfax's keeping Newbitt's other contributions in reserve?" was asked.

"The opinion is," he replied, "that there was something connected with it about which Colfax considered it inexpedient to excite attention. His action was suspicious, and the fact that it was advised by counsel amounts to nothing. He is in the most deplorable plight."

The Louisiana Bill Reported by Senator Carpenter.

The bill reported by Mr. Carpenter, from the special committee on Louisiana matters, declares the election in that State held on the 4th of November last to be null and void, and reinstates in office the State officers and Legislature who held position at that time. It further requires a new election to be held for State officers and members of the Legislature on the second Tuesday of next May, and directs William B. Woods, United States Circuit Judge for Louisiana, to proceed as Louisiana and appoint two citizens, of different politics, to be State registrars, who shall cause a new registration to be made of all legally qualified voters of the State, commencing March 15 and ending ten days prior to the date of election. The State registrars are to appoint two supervisors of registration for each parish, except Jefferson and Orleans, for which a greater number are to be appointed, and in each parish the registrars are to be divided in politics. The President is empowered to employ military forces on the application of the Governor of the State or the United States Circuit Judge to carry out the provisions of this act and enforce judicial process, and \$200,000 is appropriated to defray the expenses of registration and election.

Tilt Between Farnsworth and Platt, of Virginia—No Blood Spilled.

A lively scene took place to-day in the House between Farnsworth, of Illinois, and Platt, of Virginia. Farnsworth has lately made himself conspicuous for fighting all the jobs in which he and his friends are not interested, and casting out nasty insinuations against his personal opponent, chief among whom is General Butler, who looks upon Farnsworth as little better than a humbug. During the debate on the appropriation for public buildings Farnsworth spoke of "granite rings," and gave a significant look at Platt, sitting directly in front of him, whose name has been associated with a granite quarry in Virginia. Platt thereupon waxed wrathful, and declared that if Farnsworth meant to insinuate that he was a granite ring man, he was an opportunity for a set-to, but Farnsworth, instead of punching Platt's head, contented himself with saying that he did not mean Platt, for the suit he made was intended for a larger man.

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